

New City Catechism Class

Week Forty-two

Q42: How is the Word of God to be read and heard?

A42: With diligence, preparation, and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith, store it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- Discuss the role of the Word of God in the life of the believer:
 - What is the Word of God?
 - What does the Word of God do to/for the believer?
 - How often should it be read/heard?
 - How much Scripture should we take in at a time?
- What is implied by the question "How" we read and/or hear the Bible?

Discuss the Scripture:

- What is the context of 2 Timothy? (especially chapter 3)
- What does it mean that "All Scripture is breathed out by God"?
- Distinguish the differences between teaching, reproof and correction; and what do these three actions look like in the Christian life?
- What does it mean for a man or woman of God to be "complete, equipped for every good work"?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- How does a person read and hear the Bible with diligence?
- How does a person read and hear the Bible with preparation?
- How does a person read and hear the Bible with prayer?
- What does it look like to accept the Word of God with faith?
- How and why does a person store the Word of God in their hearts?
- How are you going to practice this lesson from this day and onward?

"As the outward man is not fit for work for any length of time, except we take food, and as this is one of the first things we do in the morning, so it should be with the inner man. We should take food for that, as everyone must allow... considering what we read, pondering over it, and applying it to our hearts..."

- George Muller, quoted in *Desiring God*, by John Piper